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## NATURAL HISTORY

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*Irish* Song BIRDS,

And such of the Foreign as are usually brought  
over and esteemed for their Singing,

To which are added

The Manner of breeding, bringing up,  
Teaching and Feeding them, when kept in  
Cages.

WITH

Account of the Distempers incident to Song  
BIRDS, and the method of Cure.

D U B L I N :

Printed for J. PIERCY, and sold at his House  
at the great Bird-cage, near *Essex-bridge* Caple-  
street. 1745.



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## P R E F A C E.



# PREFACE

TO THE

READER.

**S**INGING Birds are so pleasant a Part of the Creation, whether we consider their Variety, Beauty or Harmony, that the Animal World does not afford more agreeable Objects to the Eyes, nor none that so sweetly gratifies the Sense of Hearing; they were undoubtedly designed by the Great Author of Nature on Purpose to entertain and delight Mankind, who for the generality are well pleased with these pretty innocent Creatures.

Therefore I thought I could not do a more acceptable Service to the Lovers of these sweet Choristers of the *Woods*, considering that it had never been yet done, (I mean in this Kingdom) than to furnish them with instructions for preserving them in their Houses; because they cannot always be entertained with their melodious Musick in the *Fields*.

To which end in a concise methodical Manner, I have given the Description Character, &c. of each Species, the Marks of Cock and Hen, the Time and manner of building their Nests, the Number, Colour, &c. of their Eggs, how to order and bring up the Young,

## PREFACE *to the* READER

and what ever else is either pleasant or necessary to be known concerning them.

I recommend to you to remember at all Times to give your BIRDS wholesome good Food, never stale or Sour, and to be ever mindful of keeping them clean, 'tis the best means to make all kinds of BIRDS thrive by preventing many Diseases they are subject to, occasioned chiefly from being kept nasty, and with bad unwholesome Food.

I shall observe nothing more, only wish that my READERS may receive the Satisfaction that was intended by the sincere Endeavours of their

Most Humble Servant,

JOHN PIERCEY.

# THE MANNER OF FEEDING

Both Young and Old

## Song BIRDS.

*Black-Bird, Thrush and Starling.*

THESE BIRDS when young are fed with Sheeps Hearts, or other lean Meat that is not salted, cut it very small, take the same Quantity of Bread, rub it very small, mix them together, put a little clean Water to them, mix them till they become a soft Paste; feed them every two Hours; when they are grown up, give them any sort of Fresh Meat, raw or dressed, with some Bread in it, but not wet, for it will make it sour.

*Skie-Lark and Tit-Lark.*

These BIRDS are fed with white Bread and Milk boild thick, mixed with about a third part of Rape-seed. Soak your Rape in Water,  
six

six Hours, then boil it, take off the Scum and strain it, bruise it very small, and mix them together, feed your BIRDS every two Hours, or you may feed them as the *Black-Bird*; when grown up to feed themselves, give them Bread, Egg, and Hemp-feed. Boil your Egg hard, chop it small as you can, put to it half the quantity of whole Hemp-feed, and four times as much Bread, mix them together, feed your BIRDS every third Day.

*Wood-Lark and Red-Bird.*

These BIRDS when young are fed with Sheeps-heart, Bread, Egg, and Hemp-feed. Boil an Egg hard, chop it very small, take as much Sheeps-heart as there is Egg, chop it very small, and twice as much Bread as Egg, rub that very small, take as much Hemp-feed, as Egg and break or rub it very small, blow all the Hulls off as clean as you can, then mix them and work them all into a stiff Paste, give your BIRDS a little of this every two Hours, or oftner, take care not to give them too much at a time, or too stale for it will kill them.

When grown up feed them thus; take a hard boil'd Egg, chop it very small, take three times as much of the best Bread, rub that very small, take half as much Sheeps-heart as Egg, let it be parboil'd and chopt very small and as much Hemp-feed as Heart, rub it with a Tile, or Slate till the Hulls are all loose, then



then blow them all away, mix them together and feed your BIRDS every second Day, they are great lovers of Mould full of *Ants* at the bottom of the Cage.

*Nightingale, Robin, and Wren.*

These BIRDS when young are fed with Sheeps-heart, and Egg, take an Egg and boil it hard, chop it very fine, take twice as much Sheeps-heart, and chop it very fine, well cleansed from *Skin, Sinews, Fat, or Strings*, then mix them together with a little clean Water, and work them into a Paste, feed them every two Hours, or oftner; when grown up you may feed them with the same Food, or you may feed them with the *Wood-larks* Meat. I think both at one time agrees best with them, for they love variety of Food, they are great lovers of Mould full of *Ants* at the bottom of the Cage.

*Linnet, Bull-Finch, Green-Bird, Chaf-Finch  
Yellow-Hammer and Twite.*

These BIRDS when young are fed with Bread, Milk, and Rape-feed.

Soak your Rape-feed ten or twelve Hours in clean Water, then pour off your Water, and let it just boil up in more clean Water, scum it and strain it, then bruise it very small and clean as many of the Hulls from it as you can, then take a piece of the best Bread, soak  
it

it in clean Water, then boil it in a little Milk, strain the Milk from it that it may be thick, let the Rape-feed be one third, then mix them together like a Paste, make but little at a Time, let them have fresh every Day ; when they are grown up, feed them with Rape and Canary, three fourths Rape and one fourth Canary-feed, it is the Best Food you can feed them with, you may give them a little Hemp-feed.

*Canary-Bird, Gold-Finch, Aberdevine and Red Pole.*

These BIRDS when young, are fed with the same Food as the *Linnets*, but I think if you add a little Maw-feed, it will be better, especially if the BIRDS are inclined to dung loose, which you must be careful of. These BIRDS when old, are great lovers of Canary-feed, therefore we feed them with two thirds Canary, and one third Rape-feed, you may give them a little Hemp-feed, or a little Millet-feed, but Hemp-feed is a very bad Seed, if you give them too much, it will make them rotten, moult black, and shorten their Lives, but a little sometimes will enliven and cherish them. Observe always if your Paste be too stiff to soften it with a little clean Water.

*How to stop any hard Beak'd Bird, and make them sing after they are moulted off.*

The stopping of a BIRD is of great Use to those that would have them learn a sweet Song,  
you

you must let your BIRD, before you stop him, be a year old, and keep him in a back Cage, so that he may be able to find his Victuals in the dark, you may put him in a Stop the beginning of *May*. The Nature of a Stop is this, you may provide a Case, that will fit your Cages, made very close, that no Air can go in, then put in your BIRDS, and leave the Door open three or four Days, then let it half down, let it remain three Days, then by degrees let a little every second Day be shut down, be sure to observe whether your BIRDS find their Meat, and Water, before you shut it quite, and when you see they have found their Meat, and Water, take them out one at a Time, and clean them well, and observe that they Dung well, and are in good Health, then shut them in close, keep them so three Days, then open the Box or Case, and feed them one at a Time, be as quick as you can, for fear they catch cold, and so feed them every third Day, but do not clean them, and if you find they Sing, or do not begin to Moulte, throw a Blanket, or any warm thing over the Box to keep them hotter, and closer, every time you feed them, take a litle Stick and put the Dung down, in the bottom of the Cage, to prevent dirtying their Feathers, and so let them continue in this close Stop for three Months, by which time they will be moulted off, then take off the Blanket first, and let them stand so three Days, then take them out and clean the Cages, and in three Days more,

begin to open the Door by degrees, as you shut it, and so let them have the Air by Degrees, put a little beet Leaf and Liquorice in the Water, and you will find them to Sing more and more every Day, they will Sing all the *Winter* as stout as in the *Summer*. This is what makes the *German Canary BIRDS* Sing so stout when they first bring them over; for their stoveing them up in Blankets is the same as our Stop.

*The description and character of the Black-Bird.*

THIS is a BIRD well known, being common in most, if not all the Counties in *Ireland*, therefore needs not a particular Description, I begin with him first, because he is the largest Song BIRD, that I know of, found in *Europe*; and likewise one of the first, that proclaims the welcome Spring, by his shrill harmonious Voice, as if he were the harbinger of Nature, to awaken the rest of the feathered Tribe to prepare for the approaching Season; they build their Nest the soonest of any BIRD, having Yong Ones commonly by the middle of *March*.

The Cock when kept in a Cage Whistles and Sings very delightfully all the Spring for four or five Months, is a stout hardy BIRD, which besides his own pleasant natural Note may be taught to Whistle any Tune.

The BLACK BIRD, when wild in the Fields, feeds promiscuously upon *Berrys*, and *Insects*.

'Tis



'Tis a solitary BIRD, that for the most part Flies singly.

*The distinguishing Marks of the Cock and Hen.*

They are not easily known by their Colour, while young, but the blackest BIRD generally proves a Cock, the Trides or Circle that circumvests the Eye in the young Cock BIRD is Yellow, his Bill is black and turns not perfectly Yellow 'till he is near a Year old. The Bill of an old Cock BIRD is of a deep Yellow, in the Hen the tip and upper Part is black, the Mouth in both is Yellow within, the Cock BIRD, as well as the Hen, while young, is rather brown or of a dark Ruffet than black, and the Belly of an *Asb* Colour, but after he has moulted his Feathers, he becomes Cole-black,

*The Time and Manner of the Black-Birds building their Nests.*

This BIRD as I observed before Breeds very soon in the Year, has young ones by the End of *March*, or sooner, they build their Nest very Artificially, the outside of *Moss*, slender Twigs, Bents, and Fibers of Roots, all very strongly cemented and join'd together with Clay, and lining it with a covering of small Straws, Bents, Hair, or other soft Matter, upon which she lays four or five Eggs, seldom more, of a bluish green Colour, full of dusky Spots; they build pretty open, generally in a Hedge near the

Ground, and before there are many Leaves upon the Bushes, which so exposes their Nest, considering the largeness of it, that it may be easily discovered.

*Of the young how to order them, being never taken old and tamed, but brought up from the Nest.*

You may take them at twelve Days old, or sooner, they may be raised with little Trouble taking care to keep them Clean and feeding them as directed in the beginning of this Book. When their Nest grows foul take them out, and put them into a Cage, or Basket upon clean Straw, and when they can feed themselves separate them.

He is a stout healthful BIRD, not very subject to Disorders, but if you find him Sick, or droop at any Time an House Spider or two will help him, let him have a little Cochineal in his Water, which will make him chearful and do him good. They love to wash and prune their Feathers, therefore when they are fully grown up, set Water in their Cages for that purpose.

*Of the Song Thrush.*

There are two sorts of Song THRUSHES, the small Heath THRUSH, from its building on Heaths, and Commons, he is of a darker Colour then the other, and by some valued for Singing, but is not comparable to the Song THRUSH, nor so well known. I shall say no more

more of him but of the Song *THRUSH* only, he is a little less then the *Black-Bird*, the upper surface of the Body, is of an Olive-colour with a mixture of Yellow in the Wings, the Breast Yellowish spotted with dusky Spots, and the Belly white ; he is a curious Bird as well for the great variety of his Notes, as his long continuance in Song, which is at least nine Months in the Year. In the beginning of the Spring he sits on high Trees and Sings most Sweetly, and is as delightful a BIRD as a Person can desire to keep in a Cage. Some of them when they have been brought up from the Nest, have learnt the *Woodlarks*, *Nightingales* and other curious BIRDS Songs.

*The Marks of the Cock and Hen.*

The Cock and Hen of this Kind are so much alike in the colour of their Feathers, and shape of their Bodys, that notwithstanding I have carefully examined them divers Times, could not discover any certain external Marks, whereby to know the one from the other while young ; it is observeable in the old Cocks, and Hens of all Kinds of BIRDS, where the Colours are the same in both, yet the Cock BIRD excels the Hen in the resplendency of his Feathers ; but then we are not put to such Difficulties to know the Cock, he sufficiently Discovers himself by his fine Song. In young *Thrushes* I would, always choose the sleekest and brightest BIRD, when they begin

to feed themselves, both Cocks and Hens will record, the Cock will get upon his Perch, and Sing his Notes low for some time, the Hens will attempt to Sing, but do it only by jerks. At the latter End of the *Summer* when their Moulting is over, the Cocks will break out strong in Song, and Sing in *Winter* as well as *Summer*.

*The Time and Manner of building their Nests.*

This BIRD breeds very early in the Spring, near as soon as the *Black-Bird*, she commonly has young ones by the beginning of *April*, they build in *Woods* or *Orchards*, sometimes in a thick Hedge near the Ground, the outside of her Nest consists of fine soft green *Grass*, interwoven with dead Grass and Hay, &c. the inside very curiously plaistered with Cowdung or Clay on which she lays five or six Eggs of a bluish green Colour, speckled with a few small black Spots, chiefly at the biggest End. While he is young, feed him the same as directed in the beginning of this Book, but when grown up, put a little Hemp-Seed in his Meat, when in the Fields he feeds on *Insects*, and *Snails*, as also Berrys of white Thorn, and Mistletoe. He is subject to the Cramp, if not kept Clean, and fresh Water often given to Wash in, which you will find he will much Delight in.

Of



*Of the Starling.*

**T**hey are Gregarious BIRDS, living and flying together in great Flocks, and near as big as the *Black-Bird*, and in Shape very much like that BIRD. It does not Sing Naturally, but has a wild screaming uncouth Note, yet for his Aptness in imitating Man's Voice and speaking Articulate, and his learning to Whistle divers Tunes, is highly valued as a very pleasant BIRD.

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

There is a Mark peculiar to the Cock of this Kind, whereby he may be known from the Hen, whilst young under his Tongue he has a black Stroak very plainly to be seen, if you open his Mouth, which the Hen has not, or at least so Faint, that 'tis hardly visible but the first time the Cock moults his Feathers, he loses that black Stroak, he may then be known from the Hen by his Colours, in the beauty of which he much excells her. His Breast has a cast of Green, Red, Purple, &c. else the Feathers all over his Body are black with a Blue and Purple Gloss, varying as it is variously exposed to the Light, only the tips of the Feathers on his Head, Neck, and Breast, are yellowish, and on the Belly white, all his Spots and Colours are brighter than those of the Hen, the Bill of the Cock is  
of

of a pale yellow inclining to white, in the Hen dusky.

*The time and Manner of the Starling's building  
her Nest.*

**T**his Bird usually breeds in *May*, they build their Nests in the holes of old Towers, Pidgeon-Houses, Trees, &c. The goodness of these Birds does not depend upon the Places where they breed : She lays four or five Eggs lightly tintured with a greenish Blue ; the young one may be taken at ten Days old and feed them the same as directed in the beginning of this Book , the *Starling* when wild feeds upon *Beetles*, *Worms* and other *Insects*.

*Of the Skie-Lark.*

The *Cock Skie-Lark* is as good a Song Bird as most this Land produces, he is vastly stout and lavish in his Song, and Sings eight or nine Months in the Year, and considering the stateliness and beauty of this Bird, his great Freeness in Singing, the great variety of his pleasant harmonious Notes, and the many Years he may be kept in a Cage with Care is highly deserving the best Character can be given him.

To

*To know the Cock from the Hen.*

To distinguish one from the other in this Kind is no easy Matter, and about which there are vaious Opinions, but hardly one that can be depended upon; they say the Bird that sets up his Feathers on his Crown is certainly a Cock; and that the longest heel'd Bird is another sure sign, and some say two white Feathers in the Tail. This is all but guess Work, that sometimes proves right and sometimes wrong; this I know the biggest and longest Bird seldom fails of proving a Cock. I think no way sure till I hear him record his Song.

*The time and Manner of building their Nests.*

The Skie-Lark has young ones by the end of April. She builds her Nest with a few Bents, or such like materials, always upon all Ground, in a little Hole, either in Meadows, Corn-Fields of any sort, or in Pasture of any Kind, and lays four or five Eggs, almost the colour of a clod of Earth thickly speck'd with brownish Specks.

*Of the young and how to Order them.*

These Birds must be taken at eight or ten Days old. When you have taken a Nest of young Birds, put them into a Basket, with some short clean Hay at the bottom, cover

and tie them down close and Warm, feed them with soft Meat as directed in the beginning of this Book, in a week's Time you may put them in a large Cage, with some Hay cut short at the bottom, till they can feed themselves with dry Meat, viz. Bread, Egg, and Hemp-feed, give them a fresh Sod once a Week, or once in twelve Days at most, and put a little Gravel in the bottom of the Cage. You may sometimes give them a little Flesh-meat minced fine, and mixed with their Bread and Egg, as he is of an hardy Nature this careful Management will preserve him many Years.

*Of the Wood-Lark.*

THIS Bird is universally admired for his great variety of soft and delightful Notes, that in the opinion of most People, he is the best Song-bird found in this Kingdom. I have heard many People say they have counted more then thirty different changes in his Song, all fine, soft and sweet; his Breast and Belly are of a pale Yellowish Hair Collour, faintly spotted with black. The Back and Head are party coloured of black and reddish Yellow, a whitish Line encompassing the Head from Eye to Eye. He is something smaller and shorter bodyed then the *Skie-Lark* and has a shorter Tail and often sits on a Tree to Sing.

*The*



*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

He is known by his Size, the biggest and largest body'd Bird, generally proving a Cock, and by the largeness and length of his Call, the tall walking of the Bird about the Cage, and at the Evening the doubling of his Note, which we call Cudling, as if he were going to Roost, and many other uncertain Signs, it being all guess Work till you hear him Sing.

This Bird is always taken old, it being difficult with the utmost Care, that can be taken to raise them from the Nest, either the Cramp or Scouring kills them, or they die in Moulting.

*The time and manner of Building their nests.*

It is a very tender Bird, and yet breeds early in the Spring, as soon as the *Black-bird*, they build at the foot of a Bush or a Hedge in Lays, where the *Grass* is rank and dry, under some *Tuft* to shelter them from the Weather. Their Nest is made of withered *Grass*, *Fibrous-roots* and other such like matter, with a few Horse Hairs within side at the bottom, being a small and very indifferent *Fabrick*, it has hardly any hollow or sides. She lays four or five Eggs of a pale bloom Colour, beautifully mottled and clouded with a red Yellow.

of

*Of the young how to Order them.*

The *Wood-Lark* as I said before breeds very early in the Spring, her young ones are tender Birds, if you are minded to bring them up from the Nest, which you will find exceeding difficult to do, don't take them too soon, not before they are well feathered because when they are too young they are more subject to the Cramp and Scouring, which commonly kills them, put them into a Basket with a little *Hay* at the bottom, or some such thing where they may lie clean and Warm, tying them close down and feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book. The wild ones feed upon *Beetles*, *Caterpillars*, and other *Insects*, likewise upon Seeds; the *Wood-Lark* as if sensible of his own melodious Song, will take from no other, unless brought up from the Nest.

*Of the Green-Bird, or as it is commonly called the Green-Linnet.*

**I**T is a large stout Bird, of a strong hardy Nature, they are frequently kept in Cages, but not much esteemed for Singing, they are most valued for their learning to ring the Bells in a Cage; tho' some of them if brought up from the Nest will learn to Pipe, Whistle, and the Song of most other Birds. I have heard one Sing the *Wood-Lark's* Song exceeding fine.

*The*

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

His Head and Back are Green, the edges of the Feathers Greyish, and the middle of the Back hath something of the Chesnut colour intermixed, the fore part of his Head, Neck, and Breast quite down to his Belly and Rump are of a deep Yellowish Green, the lower Belly inclining to whitish, the borders of the outermost quill Feathers of the Wings are of an elegant Yellow and the Feathers along the ridge of the Wing are of a lovely Yellow likewise. The colours of the Hen are not so bright and lively.

*The time and Manner of building their nests.*

The Green-bird has young ones about the middle of May, she builds in Hedges and makes a large Nest, the outmost part of which consists of Hay, Grass, Stubble &c. the middle of Moss the inmost of Feathers, Wool, Hair, &c. soft and pretty; she lays five or six Eggs of a white Colour sprinkled with small reddish Spots, especially at the blunt End.

*Of the young how to Order them.*

They may be taken at ten Days old and brought up the same as directed in the beginning of this Book, they are not very tender, keep them clean, and there is no fear but they

they will thrive, if you regard his Colours, he is as finely feathered as most Birds, and in an Aviary makes as pretty a show as the best of them, and Sings a pretty Base amongst them.

*Of the Chaffinch.*

**H**E is a veay stout Bird, and very lavish in his Song, they are like other Birds, differ much in their Song, I have known some brought up, and sold for three Crowns, and a Guinea a Bird; they commonly learn them a Song which is called *Whitford Tune*, and Chopping Lim. They are commonly brought up under other Birds called sweet Song *Chaffinches*. The wild ones don't Sing above three Months, but they that are brought up Nestlings or Branchers will Sing eight Months in the Year.

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

You may easily distinguish the Cock from the Hen, at ten or twelve Days old, the Cock, has a great deal more white in his Wing, then the Hen, particularly on his pinion, his Breast is remarkably Redder, and the Feathers of the whole Bird of a brighter Colour than the Hen. In an old Bird, the Head of the Cock is bluish, the Back of a redish brown with a mixture of *Ash* colour, or green, the Breast of a fine Red, and the Belly white, the colours of the



the Hen are not so Bright and Lively, the Breast being more upon the Grey.

*The Time and manner of Building their Nests.*

The Chaffinch breeds in April, she builds in any Hedge or Tree, her Nest is the prettiest of all small Birds, excepting the Goldfinch, which excels it in Beauty, the outside is whitish Moss, small Sticks, withered Grass, Horse and Cow Hair, Wool, Feathers, &c. making an exceeding soft Bed, for her young, she lays four or five Eggs of a Whitish Colour spotted with a few Large reddish brown Spots, with a few small Specks and Streaks at the biggest End of the same Colour.

*Of the Young how to order them.*

You may take them at ten Days old, and feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book, they are hardy and easily raised.

*Of the Yellow Hammer.*

IT is equal to the Chaffinch in bigness, both Cock and Hen are beautiful Birds, and the Cock will Sing very prettily, but is not kept very common in a Cage, yet he is no contemptible Bird, besides his Song, his fine Feathers, are enough to recommend him, a lovely Yellow adorns his Head, Throat, Breast, and

and Belly ; his Back and Wings are pretty much like the *Linnet* ; the Hen is of a paler colour, all over her Body, and the Parts that are of a fine yellow in the Cock, in the Hen are of a dirty Green. These Birds build on the Ground near some Water, they make their Nests with dry'd Roots of Grass, Weeds, Horse Hair, &c. She lays six or seven white Eggs, veined and spotted with black. Her young ones are taken in *May*, at ten or twelve Days old, you may feed them as you do the *Linnet* or the *Lark* ; they are common every where in *Ireland*, for the most Part they abide on the Ground, seeking their Food there of *Insects*, Seeds, &c.

#### Of the *Linnet*.

FOR the Sweetness of its Singing, the *Linnet* is so much esteemed, that by many Persons, he is thought to excel all small Birds. He has certainly a curious fine Note, little inferior to the best of Birds, he may be taught likewise to Pipe, Whistle, or the Song of any other fine Bird, but as his own is so good, that trouble is unnecessary, he is pretty apt in learning if you bring him up from the Nest, and will take the *Woodlark's* Song to perfection, or that of the *Canary-bird's*. The *Linnet* sings what is called the sweet Song, but I never heard him sing it any where, but in *London*. It sings in jerks with great Deliberation, and is composed of many fine Birds Songs. I have

have conversed with many Men, for many Years past, but never could hear from what the Birds learn'd it, or where the Original came from, but I'll give you as good a description as I can, and what I have heard Sung is as follows, viz.

He begins with very fine Pues, then he Sings his Song thus, with what we call a Laugh.

*Ho, ho, ho. Cha, cha, Chou, chou, chou, chou, Whisk, whisk, whisk, whisk, whisk. Hink, hink, hink, hink, whakee whisk, whisk, whisk, whisk. Tollock Chou, Tollock Chou, Twink, twink, twink, twink, twink; Chink, chink, chink: Whakee whisk, Poip, poip, poip, poip, Turtle Chou, tuurtle chou. Feef, feef, feef, feef, Sneejug, sneejug, sneejug, Weet, weet, weet, weet, weet.* There is another Jerk called the Trumpet Jerk, but this I cannot put into Words; but I believe if you could hear it sung you would say it exceeded all things of that Kind, you ever heard. These sweet Song Linnets, are sold from one Guinea to five Guineas a piece, and these Birds are always stopt, to teach other young ones, otherwise they could not teach them. The Nature of the stop you will find in the beginning of the Book.

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

You may know the Cock Bird, either old or young by these two Marks, first the Feathers on his Back are much browner then those of the Hen, secondly the white of the Wing,  
D
stretch

stretch out his Wing, and then observe the white upon the three or four longest Feathers, if it appears clear and bright and broad and reaches up to the quills it is a sure Sign of a Cock-bird, for the White in the Wing of a Hen is much less, and fainter and narrower.

*The time and manner of Building their Nests.*

The *Linnet* has young ones by the middle of *April*, they build commonly in a thick Bush or Hedge. She likewise builds among Furze, Bushes, &c. making a small pretty Nest, the outside of Bents, dry'd Weeds, and other Stubble Matter, and the bottom all matted together, the inside of fine soft Wool mixed with downy Stuff gathered from dry'd Plants with a few Horse-hair exceeding neat and Warm. She lays four or five Eggs white with fine Red Specks, especially at the blunt End.

*Of the Young how to Order them.*

They may be taken at ten Days old, or sooner, they will learn the Song of any Bird the better for being taken young, but be sure to keep them very Warm, and Feed them once in two Hours, prepare their Meat as is directed in the beginning of this Book, when they begin to Feed themselves, set scalded Rape-feed in their Cage, to Wean them from the Bread and Milk, as soon as possible, because



because sometimes Feeding too long upon soft Food, will make them Rotten. They will be two Months old before they will be able to crack their Seeds, being commonly old and hard.

*Of the Bull-Finch.*

THE *Bull-Finch* is a very docible Bird, the Hen learning after the Pipe or Whistle, as well as the Cock, having very little Song of their own, but what is taught them, in which they excel most Birds, and the peculiar rarity of these Birds is, that they never forget what they have once learnt, tho' they hang among ever so many Birds; some have been taught to speak several words, 'tis a Bird much esteemed in *England* both for beauty and Singing, and deservedly, for in the former, he equals most, and in the latter when well taught excels all small Birds, they have been frequently sold from five to ten Guineas a Bird.

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

The Cock excels the Hen in the beauty of his Colours, a lovely Scarlet or Crimson adorns his Breast, the Feathers on the Crown of the Head and those that compass the Bill, are of a brighter black than those of the Hen. If both are seen together the one may very easily be known from the other, the Colours of the Cock being much more resplendent than the

Hen; but whilst the Birds are young, it is more difficult to distinguish them, one of the surest ways is to pull of a few Feathers from their Breasts, when they are about three weeks old, and in about twelve Days after, you will perceive the Feathers to come where you have pulled, of a curious Red if a Cock; if a Hen they will come of a palish Brown.

*The time and manner of Building their Nests.*

The *Bull-finch* breeds late in the Spring, seldom has young ones before the End of *May*. She builds in an *Orchard*, *Wood*, or *Park*, where there are plenty of Trees, her Nest is not very common to be found, 'tis an ordinary Fabrick made with little Art. She lays four or five Eggs of a bluish Colour, spotted at the biggest End with dark brown, and faint reddish Spots.

*Of the young and how to Order them.*

You must not take these birds too young, let them be well feathered first, at least twelve Days old, keep them Warm, and clean, Feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book, every two Hours, giving them little at a time; when they begin to Feed themselves, break them from the soft Meat, as soon as you can, then giving them Rape and Canary both boiled and dry; you must remember often to Pipe or Whistle to them, whilst they are young,  
what

what you are minded they should learn, and you will find them soon take it.

*Of the Thristle-picker commonly called the Gold-Finch.*

**I**T is every where in *Ireland* well known, and highly esteemed, both for Singing, and for the Elegancy of its Colours, being certainly the most beautiful and finest feathered of all Cage Birds. A ring of curious Scarlet coloured Feathers encompasses the fore part of his Head, or basis of his Bill, and from the Eyes to the Bill, on each side is drawn a black Line, the Jaws or Cheeks are white, the top of the Head black, from which a broad black Line is produced on both sides almost to the Neck, the hinder part of the Head is black, the Neck and fore part of the Back are of a reddish *Ash* Colour; the Rump, Breast, and Sides of the same, but a little paler, the Belly whitish, the Wings and Tail black, only the tips of the principal Feathers in both are white, besides the Wings are adorned with a most beautiful transverse stroak of Yellow, or Gold colour. I should not have been so Particular in describing the Colours of this Bird, but I think the great variety that Nature has painted it with wherein it excels all small Birds, at least what are found in these Parts of the World, makes it deserving of it; and what adds more to their Beauty is their mild gentle Nature: They are not so affrighted

affrighted at the presence of a Man, as most other Birds are wont to be, nor very much troubled at their Confinement in a Cage, there is no Bird will learn to draw their Water like the *Goldfinch*, tis a pretty sight to see with what Dexterity these little Creatures will pull up their Bucket, Drink and throw it down again, and lift up the lid of a small Box with their Bill, to come at their Meat ; to add to all this, he is a long lived Bird that will sometimes reach to the Age of twenty Years. They are Birds that Fly in Flocks or Companys, and when at Liberty Feeds upon the Seeds of Thistles, Teasel, &c.

*The marks of the Cock and Hen.*

The Feathers on the ridge of the Wing in the Cock, are Cole-black, quite up to the Shoulders, whereas in the Hen though they appear black, are of a gray or dusky *Ash* Colour, when compared to those of the Cock, he is browner on the Back and the sides of the Breast, the Red, Yellow, and in short all his Colours are much brighter then those of the Hen. These are constant infallible Marks, by which the Cock may be known from the Hen either old or young ; besides after they have moulted off their Nest Feathers, the Hair that covers the butt of the Bill, are in the Cock black and in the Hen gray.

*The*



*The time and Manner of building their Nests.*

The *Goldfinch* builds in *April*, when the Fruit Trees are in Blossom. As they excell all other small Birds in beauty of Feathers, so do they likewise in Art: Their Nest is not only very small but exceeding pretty, the outside consists of very fine *Moss* curiously interwoven with other soft Bedding, the inside lined with delicate fine Down, Wool, &c. she lays six or seven white Eggs, speck'd and markt with a redish brown. To find their Nest is very easy, for they generally build in Apple, Pear, Plumb, Trees, &c.

*Of the young how to Order them.*

They are tender Birds, and therefore should not be taken too soon, let them be pretty well feathered first, they will not be sullen, like the young of many other Birds, by staying too long in the Nest. Feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book. When they are pretty strong begin to break them from their soft Meat, by giving them Canary Seed boiled soft, and soft Meat besides, and by Degrees all Canary Seed dry, being far better than Hemp, for I find that Hemp Seed spoils their Colour and Canary Seed preserve it.

Of

*Of the King of Birds, or the little King called  
the Robin Red-breast.*

**T**HIS Bird is so well known all over this Kingdom, that it needs no long Description: It is by many in *England* esteemed little inferior to the *Nightingale*; but in *Ireland* very little Notice taken of him. The Cock has a sweet melodious Song, so free and shrill that very few Birds can equal him, they will enter the House with much Confidence, being a very bold Bird, sociable and familiar with Man, but not with any Bird besides his one Mate.

*The Mark of the Cock and Hen.*

The Cock may be known by his Breast, being of a deeper Red than the Hen's, and the Red going up farther upon the Head, the Cock is likewise of a darker Olive colour upon the upper surface of his whole Body.

*The time and Manner of building their  
Nests.*

The *Robin* has young ones in *March*, she builds in a Barn, or out House, sometimes in a Bank, or Hedge, and likewise in the Woods, her Nest is made with coarse Materials, the outside of dry green Moss, intermixed with coarse Wool, small dry'd Sticks, Straws,  
 &c.

*Ec.* She lays commonly five or six Eggs, of a Cream colour, sprinkled all over with fine Reddish Yellow Spots at the blunt End, so thick that they appear almost all in one.

*Of the young and how to Order them.*

You may take them at ten Days old, keep them Warm in a little Basket, with Hay at the bottom, and Feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book. When they are grown strong Cage them, and let them have *Moss*, or something to keep them dry, at the bottom of the Cage. A young one brought up from the Nest may be taught to Pipe, or Whistle finely, and will take the *Wood Lark's* Song to perfection.

*Of the Wren.*

**T**HIS is the smallest Song Bird that I know found in this Kingdom, he commonly creeps about Hedges and Holes, making but short Flights, it will sit upon a Barn or Tree, *Ec.* where it mostly frequents, and Sing exceeding fine, and being kept in a Cage, it will sing very sweetly, and with a higher and louder Voice than one would think, for its strength and bigness, and is a very pleasing Bird that will sing nine Months in the Year.

*The Marks of the Cock and Hen.*

The Cock is of a dark brown upon the Head and Back, his Breast and Belly whitish, the Tail and Wings are varied with a bright Yellow, and blackish Lines ; the Hen Bird is all over of a redish brown Colour, excepting the Lines across her Tail and Wings which are black and redish, the difference in young Birds can hardly be known, till the Cocks begin to record and Sing.

*The time and Manner of building their Nests.*

The *Wren* has young ones in *May*, she builds her Nest sometimes in the Walls of Houses, or Stables, or other Out-houses, but more commonly in Woods and Hedges, in a very artificial Manner having the form of a Sugar Loaf without of *Moss*, within of Hair, Wool, or Feathers, and hath in the middle of the Side, a passage by which it goes in and out, she lays a great number of Eggs, sometimes fifteen or sixteen, but many times Hatches not half that Number, they are very small white Eggs, sprinkled all over with small pale red Spots.

*Of the young and how to Order them.*

Let them be very well Feathered before you take them, they are to be fed as the young  
*Robin ;*



*Robin*; when they are grown fit for a Cage, let them have a large one, made of very close Wire, with three sides Wood, and one side Wire. it must be lined with green Cloth, or Baze, and kept very Warm, and they will answer your Expectation.

*Of the Canary Bird.*

THIS Bird has its Name from *Canaria*, an Island of the *Atlantick Sea*, from whence about an hundred Years ago these Birds were first brought into *Europe*, and from no other Place, they were first brought into *Italy*, then to *Tirol*, *Swabia*, &c. in *Germany*, where they undertook the breeding of them, and bred them in abundance, and to great Perfection. They for many Years have supplied all *Europe*, part of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, with these Beautiful little Creatures, and each of these Countries have improved the breed, and exceed the Birds brought from their Natural Climate, both in Beauty and Song, among which the *French*, *English*, and *Irish* bred Birds are not inferior to the best, being of a more hardy Nature and better for breeding than those of any other Country, being as hardy, straight, sprightly, bold Birds, and with as beautiful Plumage as the best Country in *Europe*. These Birds when wild, are all of the Gray Colour. They became white and of the different Colours which I shall just now mention, by the alteration of

E 2

Food,

Food, being bred in Houses, as happens frequently to *Skie-Larks*, *Wood-Larks*, *Linnets*, *Black-birds*, &c. after moulting in the House, nay I have been credibly informed, that real wild *Ducks*, and *Pheasants* that have been made Tame and bred out of, without the mixture of any of the tame Kind, have in three or four Years had young ones of most of the Colours of the tame ones, all which makes me clearly of Opinion that if we bred out of such *Linnets*, &c. as have turned white, tho' but in part two or three Years successively, we might have white *Linnets*, &c. which would be as great a rarity as white *Canary Birds*; and that *Linnets* both Gray and Green, *Twites*, *Red-Poles*, and *Goldfinches* will breed in a Room, has been experienced by several Gentlemen in *Dublin*.

*Canary-birds* are of the following different Colours :

*Their several Colours.*

Gray, mottled, white, *Lemon*, *Ash* Colour, *Buff* Colour, *Jonquil*, a spangled black and yellow which is called the *French* breed, and a *Mealy*, besides mixtures of all the foregoing by pairing the different Colours together. There is besides, a new Kind which we never had in *Ireland* till within these three or four Years, which has a topping on their Head and are called *Copple-crowns*, and are of all the foregoing Colours.

When

*When and how a Canary-bird is to be taught  
with a Flagellet, or small Organ.*

The *Canary-bird* has a great capacity for learning what he hears, and has the strongest Voice of any Bird of his size. When they are taken young from the old ones and kept in a Room, where they can't hear any thing but what you intend to teach them, they will readily learn it, as *Airs* and *Tunes* on the small *Flagellet* and on a small *Organ* that is sold in *London*, and made on purpose for teaching *Canary-birds*; it is played by turning about a Handle that is to it, and tho' one can't play on *Musick* yet he may teach his Bird by this Instrument.

*The Time.*

As to the Time when he is to be put in a separate Cage, in order to teach him, I think it is as soon as he is old enough to be fed by Hand, which is about thirteen or fourteen Days old, at which time he is to be carried into another Room out of the hearing of any other Birds, and from this Time you are to play to him what you intend he shall learn, and always as exactly as you can, the same way, for he will take it just as he hears it, both in the Notes and Tune of the Instrument, therefore your *Flagellet* must be very small, the Notes whereof are not too loud,

loud, (there are some of them not above six Inches long) for if the tone of the Instrument be too deep, his Voice will not be able to come up to it.

*The Tunes what.*

As for the Tunes, he must be taught only one fine short Prelude and a choice Air, when they are taught more they are apt to confound one with the other, and being taught too much, they often learn nothing perfectly, their Memory is so over-burdened that they know not what they Sing.

*When play'd.*

You ought to give them a Lesson in the Morning when you rise, Another at Noon, and another before you go to Bed.

*How often and in what Manner.*

The Tune ought to be repeated five or six Times at every Lesson, and those small Airs must be play'd running without repeating the first Part of them twice, and the conclusion in the same Manner, as is usually done in Concerts or other playing.

*In*



*In what Key.*

A little Prelude may be given them in C Sol Faut which all knows is made for Birds, with a March or any other Tune, also in C Sol Faút as well as the Prelude. It ought to be a Bird of the strongest and healthiest Breed that you can get, as a Gray or mottled one, not a Copple-crown or Jonquil which are too weakly.

*One only taught in the same Room.*

One only at a Time ought to be taught in the same Room, especially after they begin to come into the Tune lest they confound one another: Some darken their Cages while they are teaching them, but I think that if you take them young from the Nest and feed them by Hand, and make them familiar with you they will learn as well without it. I am told that a Gentleman in *Dublin*, taught a *Canary-bird* the Tune *Salley* with a Prelude to it by only hanging him open in his Shop and Playing to him, and that he learned the Tune so perfectly that no one that heard them both and did not see them could tell whether it were he that played or the Bird that Sung, the Bird imitated him so exactly, and he was not very young when he got him, for which he got five Guineas. You must not be discouraged and give over Playing to your Bird,

if

if he does not take the Tune immediately, for if he were with his own Sire he would not have his Song perfectly till he came to a right Age. The same Directions will serve for teaching young *Bull-finches, Linnets, Nightingales, Wood-larks, Black-birds, Thrushes, Sterlings, Robins, &c.*

*The Marks of Cock and Hen.*

The fore part of his Head, his Throat, pinion of the Wing, and Rump, are of a deeper Yellow then the Hen, which Marks will hold good, let the Birds be of what sort they will, they always have a little Yellow above their Bills, and under their Throats, &c. of a strong deep Yellow in the Cock, in the Hen of a much paler Colour. There is a Difference likewise in their Vents in breeding Season, if you blow the Feathers in both you may perceive his to appear longer than that of the Hen's, the biggest and longest bodied Bird seldom fails of proving a Cock, especially if his Gesture and Carriage be sprightly and Majestick.

*To Order them in breeding.*

*Canary-birds* breeds three, four or five Times in the Year, and commonly lay four or five Eggs at a Time. They that are minded to breed, and not be disappointed, let them breed with Irish Birds, if your Birds  
are

are both Yellow match'd together, they must be stout, otherwise they will breed very small, but if your Cock, or Hen, be Yellow and small, then match it with a large Mealy one, which will strengthen the breed. I would advise you not to match your Birds, till the middle of *March*, and turn them up the latter end which is Time enough. Let your Places be well fitted up, in the first Place, you must have a convenient Cage or else prepare a Room; if it be convenient let it be towards the Sun-rising, because the Birds love warmth, and Sun-shine in the Room in the Morning makes the Room Warm all Day; you may make an outlet in the Window towards the Sun-rising, where they may go out in warm Weather and have a little Air when they please. I would not Advise you to overstock the Room, you must make your Room after this Manner; throw Gravel at the bottom and in some corner, and hang up in a Nett some *Elk's Hair*, *Moss*, and fine *Hay*, to make the Nest, if you please you may set up a Tree in the middle of the Room, you may likewise hang up Nest-boxes, back-cages, or Brooms, in every convenient Part of the Room; hang up as many as you have Birds, and hang them loose, that you may take them down when you please to rectifie any Disorders that may attend them. They sometimes go to Nest again, while the first are very young, and if Care be not taken they are apt to make their Nest upon their

young ones, and smother them, which may be prevented by taking your Nest down and taking that away which they have began to build ; which often will prevent them, and make them go to another Nest, and lay ; when this happens or you think they have more young ones then they can bring up, you are to take care to feed the young ones two or three times a Day, which often prevents their being starved, and makes the young ones thrive, and makes them very Tame, feed them with the same Meat, as if brought up by Hand ; 'tis the best way for these that breed a pair or two for Pleasure, to breed in a Cage, which ought to be very large that they may have room to Fly, for exercise is good, and they love it, you must have two Nest Boxes to every pair of Birds, for whilst the Cock feeds the young ones in one Box, the Hen will make her Nest, and sit in the other.

Whilst your Room or Cage is preparing for your Birds, prepare your Birds for breeding, that is put them by Pairs, as you would have them into small Cages, and keep them a few Days, before you put them where you would have them breed ; feed them with Rape and Canary as usual, and give them soft Meat, that is Bread, Egg, and Rape Seed, that is boil an Egg very hard, grate or chop it very small, take as much Rape Seed as the Egg, and let it just boil up, then scum it, take it off and strain it,



it, and bruise it or break it to Pieces, mix it with the Egg, then take as much as either of the other two of the best Bread you can get, rub it very small and mix them all together and feed your Birds with this fresh every Day, and give them fresh Greens every Day, or every second Day, that is Ground-fel with Seeds on it, Chickweed with Seeds on it, Dandy-lion with Seeds, or only the Heads or Buttons, Shepherds Purse and Plantain, for want of these things, you may supply them with a Cabbage Lettuce, but this is not to be used for a constancy, when they have young ones, be sure you don't fail of giving them fresh Greens, and soft Meat, every Morning ; for they cannot feed their young ones without it. If you have a Mind to bring them up by Hand take them at ten or twelve Days old, feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book. If you let them lye too long they grow fullen, and will not feed ; the best way is to feed them with the old ones, two or three times a Day, as I told you before, and then you may take them away when you please, they will not be fullen at all, but if you design to let the old ones bring them up, let them alone till the old ones Hatch again. As soon as they have hatched their other young ones, I would have you take the former away or else they will spoil the young ones, by pulling them out of their Nest, or picking them as they lye. When you take them away

you must make their Victuals very good, boil an Egg hard, then take the Yolk, and as much boil'd Rape-feed, as the Yolk, bruise it very fine, take as much of the Hulls away as you can, then take as much of the best Bread as there is Egg and Seed, just dip it in boiling Water, and work it into a stiff past, or you may boil it in Milk as directed before if you put a little Maw Seed in it, it will be the better, and give it them fresh every Day, you may give them some of the boil'd Rape-feed by itself unbroke, and some Rape and Canary and a little Dandelion Buttons, and Plantain, be careful the Rape Seed be not sour, it gives them the Looseness, and kills them, feed them with this Food, till they are moulted off, then put them in separate Cages, and you will have the Pleasure of their Singing all the Winter.

*Having given an Account at large of the Nature, Feeding, Breeding, and Colours of Irish Song Birds, I shall now proceed to give you a brief Account, how to Order Foreign ones, at least such as are brought into this Kingdom.*

*Of the Red Bird, or Red Gros-beak, called likewise the Virginia Nightingale.*

**I**T is something larger than the Skie Lark, the Basis of his Bill is encompassed with a border of black Feathers reaching to the Eyes. It hath a large Head adorned with a high  
towering

towering Crest, of a bright Scarlet Colour, as is also the whole Bird, except the Back, some part of the Wings, and the Tail which are of a more dirty brownish Red; these Birds are brought from *Virginia*, *Newengland* and other parts of *North America*, where they catch them as we do *Larks* in *Ireland*. It hath an agreeable melodious Song, with some Notes like the *Nightingale*, the Hen is not so beautiful as the Cock, being more brown, with a tincture of Red, these sing when in Cages, as well as the Cocks, and are brought over with them. Its Strength with its Bill is surprising, it being able to crack the Stones of *Almonds*, *Olives*, and *Indian Maiz*, very expeditiously, the Kernels of which it is very fond of. In *Ireland* they may bring them to feed upon Hemp, or *Canary Seed*, it will Eat also the *Woodlarks* Meat, I have heard of those that have attempted to breed them in *England*, but made little of it. If your Bird should be sick a Spider or Mealworm will relieve him.

*Of the Nightingale, the Description and Character.*

NOTwithstanding the particular fancy of divers Persons, for this or that Bird, which they esteem and prefer to all others, the *Nightingale* by the generality of Mankind, is still accounted the chiet of all singing Birds, he sends forth his pleasant Notes, with so  
lavish

lavish a Freedom, that he makes even the Woods to eccho with his melodious Voice. The *Woodlark* is said to outdo the *Nightingale*, but if the latter carrys it in stoutness and freeness of Song, so does the former in pleasing Variety of soft, warbling, harmonious Notes, in which to my Fancy, none excels, or is equal to him.

The *Nightingale* is not remarkable for any variety, or beauty of Colours, but well known for its Singing; in size he is something bigger than a *Robin*, he has a whitish or rather Cream-colour Breast, and a reddish Tail, and is not unlike the *Robin*, in every other Part, they are a Summer Bird, not any one knowing where they go in the Winter; there are no particular Marks in their Colours to know the Cock from the Hen. There must be a great deal of care taken to keep them clean and Warm, and they will sing all the Winter. Feed them as directed in the beginning of this Book.

*Of the Tit Lark, the Description and Character.*

THIS Bird is about the bigness of the *Nightingale*, very handsome shap'd, and finely feathered, that in beauty few Birds excel him, they are very proper Birds to be kept with *Sky Larks*, or young *Canary* Birds, they take great deliberation in their Song, some of them will *Chew, Whisk, Rattle, Weet, Sneer, jug,*



*jug*, and *Twink*, two or three ways, they don't Sing above four or five Months in the Year. This is a very hardy Bird, but not worth while to bring up from the Nest, by reason they Sing as soon as they are caught. They are catch'd the beginning of *April*, with the *Nightingale*, as soon as they come to *England*. Tye the tips of their Wings when you put them in a Cage, they will be Tame in five or six Days and Sing, the Cock of this Kind is all over more Yellow than the Hen, but especially under the Throat, on the Breast, Legs, and Feet, they are not in Colour much unlike the Pippet, which we wrongfully in *Ireland* call a *Tit Lark*, they feed as directed in the beginning of this Book; they are seen in *England* only in the Summer, like *Nightingales*.

*Of the Aberdevine, the Description and Character.*

IN Size, and Colour, it is pretty much like the gray *Canary* Bird, the Cock has a black Spot upon his Head, and a little black under his Throat, the Hen is more upon the Grey and has a spotted Breast and Belly. They are lively merry Birds, and Sing very prettily, and are frequently kept in Cages, they visit these Countrys in Winter and leave us in the Spring, they frequent the Alder Trees, &c. by the River side, it is of a very mild

mild Nature, and not at all Crafty, so that it is easily taken.

Mr. *Willoughby* calls it *Siskin*. It is, says he, kept in Cages for its Singing, in *Germany* and at *Vienna* in *Austria*, they call it *Seisel*, he is fed as directed in the beginning of this Book.

*Of the Twite, the Description and Character.*

**I**T is in Colour, and Make, something like the *Linnet*, but Less, he has a very short yellow Bill, and black Legs, the Cock has a curious red Spot upon his Rump, which the Hen hath not. 'Tis a Bird vastly brisk, and merry, that is always Singing, therefore they hang him among other Birds, to provoke them to Sing. They come here in the Winter, and go away in the Spring, except they are left Sick or Lame, then they breed here, but that is not very common, but what place they come from, or whither they go, to us is unknown. I have heard the *Twite* is common in some parts of *France*, and is called there by a name which with us signifies the lesser *Linnet*, and that its Eggs are like the Eggs of that Bird, but less, they feed as the *Linnet*. 'Tis a pretty familiar gentle natur'd Bird.

Of

*Of the Red-Pole, the Description and Character.*

**I**T is a very small but an exceeding pretty feathered Bird, the body all over of a dark brown. The top of the head and breast of the Cock are of a fine Red, the Bill yellow, and the Legs Black. The Hen has a Red Head likewise but not so bright a Colour, 'tis not a very fine Bird for Singing, but has a pretty chattering sort of a Song. They are kept in Cages, and fed the same way as the *Canary-Bird*. We are not sure that these Birds do not breed in *Ireland*; they are found here in Winter, and go away again in the Spring.

*Of the several Distempers incident  
to Soft-Beak'd Singing Birds,  
and how to cure them.*

*Black-Bird, Thrush, Starling and Sky-Lark.*

IF you find these Birds to Droop at any time, give them a Spider or two, or two or three Wood-Lice, or two or three Hog Lice, you may put a little Cochineal in their water, they are sometimes subject to Fits, then a Spider, or Meal-Worm is good, and pull two or three Feathers from the Tail. If subject to the Cramp rub the Legs well with Capons Grease, and keep them very warm, if you perceive them to Scour or Dung loose, grate a small matter of old Cheese among their Victuals, or put a little Liquorice or Saffron in their water. These are the best things that I can recommend, and what will relieve them.

*Wood-Lark, Robin, Wren, Nightingale, Tit-Lark and Red-Bird.*

THE want of keeping these Birds clean and neat causes them to clog their Feet,



Feet, which causes the Claws of several to rot off, and breeds the Cramp and Gout, and makes them never thrive nor delight in themselves. No Birds can be kept too clean, and neat; therefore be sure to let them have dry Gravel often in the Bottom of their Cages. In Autumn the *Nightingale*, and *Tit-Lark* are apt to grow Fat and Foggy, that sometimes they will hardly touch their Meat for several Days together, during that time give them every Day two or three Meal-Worms, or Worms taken out of Pidgeon-Houses, or two or three Spiders, which will purge and cleanse them well. Upon the falling of their Fat they must be kept warm, and have a little Saffron in their Water. To raise them when they are very Lean and Poor, give them Figgs chopped small amongst their Meat, and put Mould full of Ants at the bottom of their Cage, they are apt to grow Lousey, when they grow Poor, then you must smoke them well with Tobacco three or four times, it will kill the Lice, and make them thrive. When they have been kept two or three years in a Cage they are very subject to the Gout, anoint their Feet with fresh Butter or Capons Grease three or four Days together, and it is a certain Cure for them. They are subject likewise to breaking out about their Eyes, and Nib, for which use the same. If they grow melancholly, put into their Water some white Sugar-Candy, if that will not do, give them three or four Meal-Worms

a Day, and a few Ants or Ants Eggs, and some of their Mould at the Bottom of their Cages; and let them have Saffron in their Water. They are sometimes troubled with a Straitness, or Strangling of the Breast, which comes very often for want of Care in making their Meat, by mincing Fat therewith, or by reason of some Sinew or Thread of the Sheeps Heart, for want of well Shredding, hanging in his Throat, clasping about his Tongue, which causes him to forsake his Meat, and grow very Poor in a short time; when you perceive this, which is known by the Bird's gaping and the unusual beating and panting of his Breast, take him gently out of his Cage and open his Bill with a quill, and unloose any String or piece of Flesh that may hang about his Tongue or Throat, after you have taken it away give him some white Sugar-Candy in his Water, or else dissolve it, and moisten his Meat with it, 'tis a present Remedy,

of



*Of the several Distempers incident to Hard-beak'd singing Birds, and how to cure them.*

*Canary-Bird, Aberdevine, Bull-finch, Gold-Finch, Linnet, Green-bird, Chaff-Finch, Yellow-hammer, Twite, Red-pole.*

THESE Birds are subject to Surfeits, occasioned either by a violent Cold, or from eating too greedily upon Greens, especially a rank Sort of Chickweed, with broad Leaves, and without Seeds, which is hurtful both to old and young Birds, it being very apt to surfeit the latter. To discover when the Bird has this Distemper blow the Feathers on his Belly, and you will perceive it swell'd, transparent, full of little red Veins; all his little Bowels sinking down to the extreme Parts of his Body, and, if far gone, black, which generally brings Death. The Cure of this Disease if taken in time, is to keep him warm, and give him whole Oat-meal amongst his seeds for three or four Days, in order

order to cleanse him, and put Liquorice in his Water ; but, if he is too loose, instead of Oat-meal give him Maw-seeds, and bruised Hemp-seed, being more binding, and at the same time let him have a little Saffron in his Water ; or, you may boil Milk and Bread, with a little Maw-seed in it, 'tis very good for the Bird at such a Time ; or, you may take Millet, Hemp, Maw, Rape, and Canary-Seeds, of each as much as will lye upon a Six-pence ; let them just boil up, rinse them in cold Water, to cool them ; then boil a new laid Egg hard, chop it small, both Yolk and white together ; take about a Quarter of it, and put it to the Seeds, and add as much more Lettuce Seeds as any other ; give this meat to the sick Birds ; it has had good Effect on many : but before you give him this, in the Morning early, let your Bird drink two or three times Water, in which you have put the Night before about the Quantity of two Pease of Treacle ; and when you have observed him to drink two or three times, take it away, and give clean Water again ; repeat this three or four Mornings before you give him the abovementioned Composition.

*Another*



*Another Malady in BIRDS,*

IS a little Pimple on his Rump, called the Pip, it does generally go away of itself; but if at any time it is bad, and will not, when it is ripe, let out the sickly Matter, with the Point of a fine Needle, squeeze it all out with as much Gentleness as you can; then take a Bit of Loaf Sugar, moisten'd in your Mouth, put it on the Sore, and it will heal it.

*Another Disease,*

IS a Kind of yellow Scabs, that comes about their Head and Eyes, which sometimes swell and are full of Matter; let it out with a fine Needle, anoint those Places with fresh Butter, or Lard, or Oil of sweet Almonds. Those Things will cure it unless it spreads; then nothing but Time and cooling Food will carry it off.

THEY are likewise troubled with Fits, and will tumble down to the Bottom of the Cage, as if dying: to remedy this, take the Bird gently, and pull out three or four Feathers

Feathers from his Tail ; if that will not relieve him, draw a little Blood from him by cutting one or two of his Claws close to the Quick till it bleeds two or three Drops, put him in the Cage and put a little Saffron in the Water, and hang him up where he will be warm and quiet.

*The next Disease is the Looseness.*

IF you find your Bird troubled with a Scouring, occasioned by bad Seeds, and many times for want of Water, it is recovered by giving the Bird some Melon Seeds shred, Lettuce Seeds, and Beet Seeds bruised, and in his Water a little Saffron, or you may give a little Flax Seeds, and Plantain Seeds green. If these don't do, take all his Meat away, then bruise some Hemp Seed and give him that, scrape some Chalk and put it in it, and put some Maw-seeds in the Tin Pan. Put in his Water white Sugar-Candy, Liquorice, or Saffron. You must be diligent at the first to observe when he is sick, that he may have his Stomach to eat, for this is an ugly Distemper when gone too far, especially in a Linnet, and in two or three Days his Stomach will be quite gone, and then all Medicines are useless.

*Their*

*Their Moulting.*

THE last thing that I shall take notice of is their Moulting: you may know when this comes on by the Bird's often picking himself, appearing rough, melancholy, and often sleeping in the Day with his Head under his Wing, and the Cage covered with Down and small Feathers, the young ones the first Year cast only their Down and small Feathers, and after the first Year all their Feathers.

Careful nursing is the principal Means to preserve Birds under this natural Malady; therefore be sure to keep them warm, always taking Care to keep them from the Cold, or Wind, which are very prejudicial to them at such a time, and take care to let them have good nourishing Food, and put a little Saffron in their Water, likewise some bruised Hemp Seed. If the Weather is very hot when the Birds are in their Moul, give them Liquorice instead of Saffron, and with their Meat Plantain and Lettuce Seeds, but not any of that Meat if it be cold Weather.

H

Remember

Remember, whenever an Egg is prescribed for any sick Birds it is to be boiled and chopp'd, or rather grated very fine, Hemp Seeds to be bruised, and Rape or Canary Seeds scalded and bruised.

These Things with good Attendance will at all times contribute very much to the Relief of sick Birds ; and whatever else is delivered in this Treatise, concerning the Nature, Song, Marks of Male and Female, Building, Breeding, Feeding, &c. of Birds, is founded upon the Experience of many Gentlemen both in *London* and *Dublin* ; and, I hope, will, upon Trial, answer the Reader's Expectation.

And if any other Advice, relating to any Disorder, &c. of Birds, be wanting, (which the intended Brevity of this small Treatise would not permit the Author to treat of) he is ready to impart it to any of his Customers who will apply to him at his House in *Caple-Street*.

And



And whereas some who keep but few Birds, and are unwilling to be at the Trouble of boyling an Egg, and preparing the Food for them, he is willing to agree with any who live nigh him, by the Quarter, or otherwise, for supplying them every Morning, or as often as Occasion requires.

*The* **END.**

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HE Author sells all Sorts of Birds,  
Bird-cages, and all Manner of Seeds,  
and other Provisions for every Sort of Birds.

He likewise sells Elk's Hair, and all o-  
ther convenient Things proper for breeding  
Canary Birds, as Nest Boxes, &c. As also  
Pidgeons of divers Sorts.